



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

***Amendment***

LCO No. 4174

\*HB0549604174HD0\*

Offered by:

REP. STAPLES, 96<sup>th</sup> Dist.

SEN. GAFFEY, 13<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. MERRILL, 54<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. KERENSKY, 14<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5496

File No. 361

Cal. No. 229

***"AN ACT CONCERNING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION."***

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Section 10-16o of the general statutes, as amended by  
4 section 10 of public act 01-1 of the June special session, is repealed and  
5 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2002*):

6 The state shall encourage the development of a network of school  
7 readiness programs pursuant to sections 10-16p to 10-16r, inclusive, as  
8 amended by this act, 10-16u and 17b-749a, as amended, in order to:

9 (1) Provide open access for children to quality programs that  
10 promote the health and safety of children and prepare them for formal  
11 schooling;

- 12 (2) Provide opportunities for parents to choose among affordable  
13 and accredited or approved programs;
- 14 (3) Encourage coordination and cooperation among programs and  
15 prevent the duplication of services;
- 16 (4) Recognize the specific service needs and unique resources  
17 available to particular municipalities and provide flexibility in the  
18 implementation of programs;
- 19 (5) Prevent or minimize the potential for developmental delay in  
20 children prior to children reaching the age of five;
- 21 (6) Enhance federally funded school readiness programs, including,  
22 but not limited to, early reading first, Head Start, child care, early  
23 education for children with disabilities and any other preschool  
24 program funded under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary  
25 Education Act of 1965;
- 26 (7) Strengthen the family through: (A) Encouragement of parental  
27 involvement in a child's development and education; and (B)  
28 enhancement of a family's capacity to meet the special needs of the  
29 children, including children with disabilities;
- 30 (8) Reduce educational costs by decreasing the need for special  
31 education services for school age children and to avoid grade  
32 repetition;
- 33 (9) Assure that children with disabilities are integrated into  
34 programs available to children who are not disabled and that school  
35 readiness programs are appropriately reimbursed for children eligible  
36 for special education and related services; and
- 37 (10) Improve the availability and quality of school readiness  
38 programs and their coordination with the services of child care  
39 providers.
- 40 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10-16p of the general statutes is

41 amended by adding subdivision (10) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2002*):

42 (NEW) (10) "Credential" means a Child Development Associate  
43 issued by the Council for Professional Recognition, or an American  
44 Montessori Instructor for children aged three to six years, issued by the  
45 American Montessori Association, or otherwise meeting such criteria  
46 as may be established by the Commissioner of Education, in  
47 consultation with the Commissioner of Social Services.

48 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 10-16p of the general statutes, as  
49 amended by section 48 of public act 01-173 and section 11 of public act  
50 01-1 of the June special session, is repealed and the following is  
51 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2002*):

52 (b) (1) The Department of Education shall be the lead agency for  
53 school readiness. For purposes of this section and section 10-16u,  
54 school readiness program providers eligible for funding from the  
55 Department of Education shall include local and regional boards of  
56 education, regional educational service centers, family resource centers  
57 and providers of child day care centers, as defined in section 19a-77,  
58 Head Start programs, preschool programs and other programs that  
59 meet such standards established by the Commissioner of Education.  
60 The department shall establish standards for school readiness  
61 programs. The standards may include, but need not be limited to,  
62 guidelines for staff-child interactions, curriculum content, including  
63 preliteracy development based on scientifically based reading  
64 research, lesson plans, parent involvement, staff qualifications and  
65 training, transition to school and administration. The department shall  
66 develop age-appropriate developmental skills and goals for children  
67 attending such programs. The commissioner, in consultation with the  
68 Commissioners of Higher Education, [and] Social Services and Public  
69 Health and other appropriate entities, shall develop a continuing  
70 education training program for the staff of school readiness programs.  
71 For purposes of this section, on and after July 1, 2003, "staff  
72 qualifications" means there is in each classroom an individual who has  
73 at least the following: [(1)] (A) A credential issued by an organization

74 approved by the Commissioner of Education and [nine] six credits or  
75 more, and on and after July 1, 2005, twelve credits or more, in early  
76 childhood education or child development from an institution of  
77 higher education accredited by the Board of Governors of Higher  
78 Education or regionally accredited; [(2)] (B) an associate's or four-year  
79 degree in early childhood education or child development from such  
80 an institution; [or (3) a] (C) an associate's or four-year degree with six  
81 credits or more, and on and after July 1, 2005, twelve credits or more,  
82 in early childhood education or child development from such an  
83 institution; or (D) certification pursuant to section 10-145 with an  
84 endorsement in early childhood education or special education.

85 (2) Credentialed staff shall be in classrooms from nine o'clock a.m.  
86 to five o'clock p.m. at each full-time program. Not later than January 1,  
87 2003, trained staff shall be present in the absence of credentialed staff  
88 during full-time program hours earlier than nine o'clock a.m. and later  
89 than five o'clock p.m. For purposes of this subsection, "trained staff"  
90 means an individual who has completed a minimum of fifteen hours  
91 training per year which meets criteria established by the  
92 Commissioner of Education in consultation with the Commissioner of  
93 Social Services.

94 Sec. 4. Section 10-16q of the general statutes, as amended by section  
95 14 of public act 01-1 of the June special session, is repealed and the  
96 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2002*):

97 (a) Each school readiness program shall include: (1) A plan for  
98 collaboration with other community programs and services, including  
99 public libraries, and for coordination of resources in order to facilitate  
100 full-day and year-round child care and education programs for  
101 children of working parents and parents in education or training  
102 programs; (2) parent involvement, parenting education and outreach;  
103 (3) (A) record-keeping policies that require documentation of the name  
104 and address of each child's doctor, primary care provider and health  
105 insurance company and information on whether the child is  
106 immunized and has had health screens pursuant to the federal Early

107 and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Services Program  
108 under 42 USC 1396d, and (B) referrals for health services, including  
109 referrals for appropriate immunizations and screenings; (4) a plan for  
110 the incorporation of appropriate preliteracy practices and teacher  
111 training in such practices based on the report completed by the Early  
112 Reading Success Panel established pursuant to section 10-221j; (5)  
113 nutrition services; (6) referrals to family literacy programs that  
114 incorporate adult basic education and provide for the promotion of  
115 literacy through access to public library services; (7) admission policies  
116 that promote enrollment of children from different racial, ethnic and  
117 economic backgrounds and from other communities; (8) a plan of  
118 transition for participating children from the school readiness program  
119 to kindergarten and provide for the transfer of records from the  
120 program to the kindergarten program; (9) a plan for professional  
121 development for staff, including, but not limited to, training (A) in  
122 preliteracy skills development, and (B) designed to assure respect for  
123 racial and ethnic diversity; (10) a sliding fee scale for families  
124 participating in the program pursuant to section 17b-749d; and (11) an  
125 annual evaluation of the effectiveness of the program. On and after  
126 July 1, 2000, school readiness programs shall use the assessment  
127 measures developed pursuant to section 10-16s in conducting their  
128 annual evaluations.

129 (b) The per child cost of the Department of Education school  
130 readiness component of the program offered by a school readiness  
131 provider shall not exceed the foundation, as defined in subdivision (9)  
132 of section 10-262f, as amended. A school readiness provider may  
133 provide child day care services and the cost of such child day care  
134 services shall not be subject to such per child cost limitation.

135 (c) A local or regional board of education may implement a sliding  
136 fee scale for the cost of services provided to children enrolled in a  
137 school readiness program.

138 (d) A school readiness program or a group of school readiness  
139 programs may apply for a federal early reading first competitive grant

140 in accordance with provisions set forth in the No Child Left Behind  
141 Act, P.L. 107-110.

142 (e) The Department of Education may apply for federal dollars to  
143 create, in collaboration with appropriate New England nonprofit and  
144 public agencies, a New England center for teacher training in literacy.  
145 The center will train new and continuing teachers, preschool through  
146 elementary school, in instruction methods consistent with research  
147 based reading instruction.

148 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 10-16r of the general statutes, as  
149 amended by section 14 of public act 01-1 of the June special session, is  
150 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
151 *1, 2002*):

152 (a) A town seeking to apply for a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of  
153 section 10-16p, as amended by this act, or section 10-16u shall convene  
154 a local school readiness council or shall establish a regional school  
155 readiness council pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. Any other  
156 town may convene such a council. The chief elected official of the town  
157 or, in the case of a regional school district, the chief elected officials of  
158 the towns in the school district and the superintendent of schools for  
159 the school district shall jointly appoint and convene such council. Each  
160 school readiness council shall be composed of: (1) The chief elected  
161 official, or the official's designee; (2) the superintendent of schools, or a  
162 management level staff person as the superintendent's designee; (3)  
163 parents; (4) representatives from local programs such as Head Start,  
164 family resource centers, nonprofit and for-profit child day care centers,  
165 group day care homes, prekindergarten and nursery schools, and  
166 family day care home providers; and (5) other representatives from the  
167 community who provide services to children or the community  
168 including, but not limited to, librarians, child health experts and  
169 business leaders. The chief elected official shall designate the  
170 chairperson of the school readiness council.

171 Sec. 6. (*Effective from passage*) On or before October 1, 2002, the

172 presidents of institutions of higher education that provide teacher  
173 education programs, or their designees, shall summarize and report to  
174 the Commissioners of Education and Higher Education on the changes  
175 made in the curricula of each such program to implement the  
176 recommendations set forth in the report of the Early Reading Success  
177 Panel pursuant to section 10-221j of the general statutes. On or before  
178 February 1, 2003, said commissioners shall report, in accordance with  
179 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint  
180 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
181 matters relating to education on such curricula changes.

182 Sec. 7. Subsection (g) of section 10-16p of the general statutes, as  
183 amended by section 13 of public act 01-1 of the June special session, is  
184 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
185 *passage*):

186 (g) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, no funds received by  
187 a town pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-  
188 16u shall be used to supplant federal, state or local funding received by  
189 such town for early childhood education, provided (1) a town may use  
190 the greater of (A) twenty-five thousand dollars, or (B) up to five per  
191 cent but no more than fifty thousand dollars of the amount [received]  
192 allocated pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) of this section or section 10-  
193 16u for coordination, program evaluation and administration, and (2)  
194 if a town provides twenty-five thousand dollars in local funding for  
195 early childhood education coordination, program evaluation and  
196 administration, such town may use up to ten per cent but no more  
197 than seventy-five thousand dollars of such amount for coordination,  
198 program evaluation and administration. Each town that receives a  
199 grant pursuant to said subsection (c) or (d) or section 10-16u shall  
200 designate a person to be responsible for such coordination, program  
201 evaluation and administration and to act as a liaison between the town  
202 and the Departments of Education and Social Services. Each school  
203 readiness program that receives funds pursuant to this section or  
204 section 10-16u shall provide information to the department or the  
205 school readiness council, as requested, that is necessary for purposes of

206 any school readiness program evaluation.

207 Sec. 8. Subsection (e) of section 10-16p of the general statutes, as  
208 amended by section 12 of public act 01-1 of the June special session, is  
209 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
210 *1, 2002*):

211 (e) (1) Ninety-three per cent of the amount appropriated for  
212 purposes of this section shall be used for the grant program pursuant  
213 to subsection (c) of this section. Priority school districts and former  
214 priority school districts shall receive grants based on their proportional  
215 share of the sum of the products obtained by multiplying the average  
216 number of enrolled kindergarten students in each priority school  
217 district and in each former priority school district for the three years  
218 prior to the year the grant is to be paid, by the ratio of the average  
219 percentage of free and reduced price meals for all severe need schools  
220 in such district to the minimum percentage requirement for severe  
221 need school eligibility, provided no such school district shall receive a  
222 grant that is less than the grant it received for the prior fiscal year or a  
223 grant that is less than one hundred fifty thousand dollars.

224 (2) Six and five-tenths per cent of the amount appropriated for  
225 purposes of this section shall be used for the competitive grant  
226 program pursuant to subsection (d) of this section.

227 (3) The Department of Education may retain up to five-tenths of one  
228 per cent of the amount appropriated for purposes of this section for  
229 coordination, program evaluation and administration.

230 (4) If a town that is eligible for a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of  
231 this section does not submit, by January first, a plan which is  
232 subsequently approved for the expenditure of the entire amount of  
233 funds for which such town is eligible, the department may use [up to  
234 fifty per cent of] any amounts such town has not earmarked for  
235 expenditure to (1) provide supplemental grants to other towns that are  
236 eligible for grants pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, or (2)  
237 enhance the system of professional development for pre-school



238 educators in programs receiving funds pursuant to this section.

239 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2002*) The Department of Education  
240 shall oversee the 21<sup>st</sup> century community learning centers, as provided  
241 for in the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110.

242 Sec. 10. Subsection (e) of section 10-265f of the general statutes, as  
243 amended by section 21 of public act 01-1 of the June special session, is  
244 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
245 *1, 2002*):

246 (e) (1) The pilot programs established pursuant to section 10-265j, as  
247 amended, shall be funded from the amount appropriated for purposes  
248 of this section. The department shall use ninety per cent of the  
249 remaining funds appropriated for purposes of this section for grants to  
250 priority school districts. Priority school districts shall receive grants  
251 based on their proportional share of the sum of the products obtained  
252 by multiplying the number of enrolled kindergarten students in each  
253 priority school district for the year prior to the year the grant is to be  
254 paid, by the ratio of the average percentage of free and reduced price  
255 meals for all severe need schools in such district to the minimum  
256 percentage requirement for severe need school eligibility. (2) The  
257 department shall use nine per cent of such remaining funds for  
258 competitive grants to school districts in which a priority elementary  
259 school is located. In awarding grants to school districts in which  
260 priority elementary schools are located, the department shall consider  
261 the town wealth, as defined in subdivision (26) of section 10-262f, of  
262 the town in which the school district is located, or in the case of  
263 regional school districts, the towns which comprise the regional school  
264 district. Grants received by school districts in which priority  
265 elementary schools are located shall not exceed one hundred thousand  
266 dollars and shall be used for the appropriate purpose at the priority  
267 elementary school. (3) The department may retain up to one per cent of  
268 such remaining funds for coordination, program evaluation and  
269 administration. (4) The district shall use grant funds to provide  
270 professional training for teachers and principals in reading instruction

271 required pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, as amended, at  
272 reading institutes approved by the Commissioner of Education in an  
273 amount sufficient to implement its approved program."

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2002</i>